(b) if so, the date on which the proposals were made and what is the status of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) In their letter dated 2-4-85, the Government of Kerala stated that they had not taken at final view regarding the setting up of a Bench of the Kerala High Court. No further communication has been received from the State Government in this regard.

Prevention of non-serious candidates from fighting elections

447. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to deal with the problem of non-serious independent candidates who file nominations without any intention of contesting seriously but instead posing a threat to the entire electoral process;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision in this regard would be taken to keep away such independent candidates from contesting elections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill 1990 which is pending consideration in the Rajya Sabha contains certain proposals to discourage non-serious independent candidates from contesting elections. One such provision is to increase the security deposit in case of an independent candidate to 5000 rupees and in case of a candidate belonging to Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe to 2500 rupees. Another proposal is to provide State funding to a certain extent only to the candidates belonging to recognised political parties and not to any independent candidate. Incidentally it may also be mentioned that the Bill contains a provision that no election should be countermanded on the death of an independent candidate.

It is also proposed to make further indepth study in the matter as a part of general electoral reforms.

Setting up of additional benches of High Courts

448. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up additional benches of different High Courts; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof including the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The Government have decided to establish Benches of Gauhati High Court in the Capitals of Manipur, Tripura, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh after

necessary infrastructural facilities have been provided by the concerned State Governments and adequate number of Judges have been appointed in the High Court.

Proposals received from the Government of West Bengal and the Union territory administration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, in consultation with Calcutta High Court for establishing Benches of the High Court in North Bengal and at Port Blair respectively are engaging the attention of the Government.

No specific, complete proposal has been received from other State Governments.

Objection by M.R.T.P. on Air India's "Mahalucky Rajah" Scheme

449. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MRTP Commission has objected against the Air India's "MAHALUCKY RAJAH" Scheme; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that MRTP Commission takes cognisance of any possible breach of fair trade practice norms even against international competition; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to stop MRTP Commission's interferring in such competition with foreign companies involving public or private sector companies of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The MRTP Commission had passed an exparte Order of Injunction on 9.10.1991 restraining Air India from carrying on MAHALUCKY RAJAH' Scheme. Subsequently, the High Court of Bombay has set aside the exparte order and has directed the Commission to hear Air India before passing any order of injunction.

(b) and (c) The MRTP Act, 1969 extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir; the MRTP Commission is empowered to inquire into restrictive, unfair or monopolistic trade practices in terms of the provisions laid down under the aforesaid Act. The Commission is a quasi-judicial body and is required to follow the provisions and procedure laid down in the MRTP Act, 1969; MRTP Regulations, 1991 and Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

Vacancies of Judges in various High Courts

450. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are not enough judges either in the High Court or in the lower courts in the capital resulting in piling of court cases;

(b) if so, what are the details of vacancies in the Delhi High Court and other lower courts in the capital;

(c) what are the details of vacancies of judges in each High Court in the country, at present; and

(d) what remedial action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The sanctioned strength of the Delhi High Court is 25 permanent Judges and 8 Additional Judges. At present 22